

"There is no reason to doubt that the population attracted to you as soon as you have the line through the mountains will be the population which we most desire to have, a people like that of the old Imperial Islands, drawn from the strongest races of northern Europe, one that with English, American, Irish, German, French, and Scandinavian blood shall be a worthy son of the Old Mother of Nations.

"Where there is open land the wheat crops rival the best grown elsewhere, while there is nowhere any dearth of ample provision of fuel and lumber for the winter. As you get your colonization roads pushed through, and the lines along the Fraser built, you will have a large available acreage, for there are quiet straths and valleys hidden away among the rich forests which would provide comfortable farms. As in the North-West last year, so this year I have taken down the evidence of settlers, and this has been wonderfully favourable.

"Besides the climate, which is so greatly in your favour, you have another great advantage in tractability and good conduct of your Indian population. I believe I have seen the Indians of almost every tribe throughout the Dominion, and nowhere can you find any who are so trustworthy in regard to conduct, so willing to assist the white settlers by their labour, so independent and so anxious to learn the secret of the white man's power.

"Throughout the interior it will probably pay well in the future to have flocks of sheep; the demand for wool and woollen goods will be always very large among the people now crowding into those regions which our official world calls the North-West, but which is the north-east and east to you. There is no reason why British Columbia should not be for this portion of our territory what California is to the States in the supply afforded of fruits. The perfection attained by small fruits is unrivalled, and it is only with the peninsula of Ontario that you would have to compete for the supplies of grapes, peaches, pears, apples, cherries, plums, apricots, and currants. Every stick in the most wonderful forests which so amply and generously clothed the Sierras, from the Cascade range to the distant Rocky mountains, will be of value as communication opens up.

"The business which has assumed such large proportions along the Pacific shore, of the canning of salmon, great as it is, is as yet almost in its infancy, for there is many a river swarming with fish from the time of the first run of the salmon in the spring to the last run of other varieties in the autumn, on which many a cannery is sure to be established. Last, but certainly not least, in the list of your resources, comes your mineral, and, chiefly, your coal treasure. The coal from the Nanaimo mines now leads the market at San Francisco. No where else in these countries is such coal to be found, and it is now being worked with an energy which bids fair to make Nanaimo one of the chief mining stations on the continent. It is of incalculable importance not only to this Province of the Dominion, but also to the interests of the Empire, that our fleets and mercantile marine, as well as the continental markets, should be supplied from this source. Where you have so good a list of resources it may be almost superfluous to add another; but I would strongly advise you to cultivate the attractions held out to the travelling public by the magnificence of your scenery. Let this country become what Switzerland is for Europe in the matter of good roads to places which may be famed for their beauty, and let good and clean hotels attract the tourist to visit your grand valleys and marvellous mountain ranges.

"I have always been a firm friend of British Columbia, and I hope before I leave the country to see still greater progress made towards meeting your wishes."